



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 575 060 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
11.09.1996 Bulletin 1996/37

(51) Int Cl. 6: H01M 2/10

(21) Application number: 93304089.1

(22) Date of filing: 26.05.1993

(54) Modular battery cabinet assembly

Modularer Gehäuseaufbau für Batterien

Assemblage d'enceinte modulaire pour batteries

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE

(30) Priority: 15.06.1992 US 898299

(43) Date of publication of application:
22.12.1993 Bulletin 1993/51

(73) Proprietor: GNB INDUSTRIAL BATTERY
COMPANY
Lombard, IL 60148-3249 (US)

(72) Inventor: Stone, Bradley W.
Elgin, Illinois (US)

(74) Representative: Knott, Stephen Gilbert et al
MATHISEN, MACARA & CO.
The Coach House
6-8 Swakeleys Road
Ickenham Uxbridge UB10 8BZ (GB)

(56) References cited:
EP-A- 0 362 083 EP-A- 0 405 803
US-A- 4 938 351 US-A- 5 140 744

- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12, no. 225
(E-626)(3072) 25 June 1988
- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 10, no. 95
(E-395)(2152) 12 April 1986

EP 0 575 060 B1

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

Description**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****Field Of The Invention**

This invention relates to lead-acid batteries and, more particularly, to a battery cabinet for sealed-maintenance-free, lead-acid batteries used in rapid recharging applications.

Description Of The Prior Art

Sealed lead-acid stationary batteries are widely used in commerce today. Stationary batteries are specifically designed for float applications, that is, as standby power in the event of a power failure. Stationary batteries are maintained at a full state-of-charge and in a ready-to-use condition, typically by floating at a constant preset voltage. Stationary batteries are used for standby or operational power in a wide variety of applications, including, by way of illustration, in telecommunications, utilities, for emergency lighting in commercial buildings, as standby power for cable television systems and in uninterruptible power supplies.

Uninterruptible power supplies are systems that back up computers and communications networks. Sealed lead-acid batteries may comprise the power source. The uninterruptible power source allows for the orderly shutdown of computers when there is a sudden interruption in the primary electrical source, such as during a power outage, and provides back-up power for communications networks. The uninterruptible power supply also will accommodate short, or intermittent losses in power. When there is a power interruption, the batteries in the uninterruptible power system can be subject to rapid discharge.

There are numerous applications where batteries designed for use in moderate rate discharge modes are utilized. While the number can vary substantially, many of such applications require anywhere from 8 to 40 batteries. Accordingly, floor space, and sometimes even the height, required for the batteries can present problems. To attempt to minimize the floor space required, it is conventional to position the batteries in various kinds of racks or cabinets. Typically, the battery cabinets that are now being used position the batteries only in a vertical orientation. The available battery racks and cabinets are generally relatively complex to assemble and maintain.

Maintenance, testing and replacement in use require that any battery cabinet or rack provide ready accessibility to each battery. Changing requirements often require moving the application location so the ability to readily move the batteries is important. This is particularly acute because the batteries used for standby power and similar applications are heavy and bulky.

It is also of extreme importance to ensure that ap-

propriate safety standards are satisfied. Further, for locations where high seismic conditions can occur, there are additional standards which must be met.

Still further, there are so many applications requiring different combinations of batteries that manufacture, inventory control, and installation can become quite complex. Yet, despite the need, there is no battery cabinet assembly system available which can be inexpensively manufactured, that offers enhanced inventory control, that is also modular in construction, and which may be easily installed and moved after installation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 In its broadest aspects, the present invention provides a modular battery stack comprising a plurality of battery trays. Each battery tray comprises three sections, including a back section and opposing side sections. The resulting configuration allows access to the front of each section. Depending upon the size of the batteries involved, two or three of the sections are divided into individual battery compartments. Each of the battery compartments includes restraining means to hold the battery in the desired position. Most preferably, the restraining means prevent the battery from front-to-back, side-to-side and up-and-down movement within the battery compartment. The battery trays can be joined together as are needed to provide the requisite number of batteries for the particular application.

20 30 A more specific embodiment of the present invention includes a top cover and a front door that restricts access. Additionally, in a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the modular battery stack is assembled onto a base. The base then allows the thus-constituted modular battery cabinet assembly to be moved as desired from one location to another, as by means of a forklift truck or the like.

35 40 Viewed from another perspective, the present invention comprises a systematic, modular approach that simplifies manufacture, inventory control, assembly and movement of the requisite number of batteries for applications having widely varying requirements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

45 FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of a battery cabinet assembly in accordance with the present invention;
 FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view and showing a battery tray used in the battery cabinet assembly shown in FIGURE 1 and the top cover for the assembly;
 FIG. 3 is a perspective view and illustrating how adjacent battery trays of the illustrative embodiment may be joined together;
 FIG. 4 is a partial perspective view and shows a base upon which the modular battery stack can be mounted for ready movement;

FIG. 5 is a partial perspective view and illustrates how the front door is attached to the modular battery stack in the embodiment illustrated; FIGS. 6A-C are top elevation views of the illustrative modular battery tray (FIGS. 6B and 6C being fragmentary) and showing how a handle is attached to a battery for removing that battery from the tray; FIG. 7 is a perspective view of a battery and shows a terminal plate that may be utilized; FIG. 8 is a schematic view and illustrates one electrical connection made for the battery cabinet shown in FIGURE 1; FIG. 9 is a schematic view showing a modular battery tray in accordance with this invention in which the batteries being housed in the modular tray are electrically connected together in one mode; FIG. 10 is a perspective view showing an alternative embodiment of a battery tray for use with batteries of somewhat smaller dimension than those with which the battery tray of FIG. 2 is used; and FIG. 11 is a fragmentary perspective view of a battery tray and showing a spacer that can be used for accommodating a smaller-size battery.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIGURE 1 shows one embodiment of a battery cabinet assembly of the present invention. The battery cabinet assembly 10 illustrated comprises a series of battery trays 12, a top cover 14, a front door 16 and a base 18.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, the system utilized includes as a fundamental unit a battery tray capable of retaining multiple batteries. The configuration of the battery tray is such that, for the size and number of batteries involved, the floor space required is minimized together with the height while still allowing ready access to each battery. To this end, and as is shown in FIG. 2, the battery tray 12 comprises a back section 20 and adjoining and opposing side sections 22. Each section in this embodiment includes at least one battery compartment area. In the illustrative embodiment, each opposing side section 22 includes two battery compartment areas while the back section 20 has a single battery compartment area.

According to one feature of the present invention, battery restraining means are provided that prevent the battery positioned in the battery tray from undesired movement. More specifically, as shown in FIG. 2, movement from front-to-back as shown by arrow 24, from side-to-side as indicated by arrow 26, and from bottom-to-top as is shown by arrow 28, may be restrained. It will be preferred to secure the individual battery from movement in all three axes since, in accordance with this invention, the restraining means utilized will satisfy the standards required for locations where high seismic conditions can occur. However, it may be adequate for some applications to simply secure the battery from

movement in two of the three axes or, perhaps in some applications, just in one axis.

In the illustrative embodiment, the restraining means comprises two components. First of all, in the battery compartment 30 in back section 20, undesired front-to-back and side-to-side movement is prevented by a suitably dimensioned battery compartment defined by the battery compartment base 30, upstanding lip 34 extending from battery compartment base 30, end wall 36 and opposing side walls 38.

The battery compartments 40 in the side sections 22 are similar. However, one of the sidewalls of each battery compartment 40 is cut-back from the front of the compartment. Cut-back sidewalls 42 and 44 are thus provided. Cut-back sidewall 42 is spaced from sidewall 38 to allow the top restraining means to be locked in place. Cut-back sidewall 44 allows the battery to be more readily removed from that battery compartment. The various battery compartments are dimensioned so that the battery to be housed fits snugly therein.

The other component of the restraining means in the embodiment shown comprises an L-shaped rod 46. Rod 46 is positioned in complementally-shaped apertures 48 located in the sidewalls 38, 42 and 44 so that, when in place, rod 46 is positioned against the top of the battery. Rod 46 can be locked in place by any conventional means such as by a cotter pin. The space between cut-back sidewall 42 and the adjacent sidewall 38 is adequate to allow inserting the cotter pin.

It should be appreciated that other restraining means may be used. For example, flexible strap or straps may be utilized to connect the top face 50 and the bottom face 52 of the battery compartment. In such an embodiment, a detachable strap or straps can be provided so that the battery may be readily removed simply by detaching the strap, attaching a handle (if desired) to the battery and then lifting the battery out of the battery compartment. An embodiment of this type, while perhaps not as aesthetically pleasing, allows a battery to be more readily removed when that is required than does the illustrative embodiment.

Because of the weight of the batteries, it is often desired to utilize batteries in the battery cabinet system of this invention that have slots or other attachment means so that a handle can be affixed to the battery when the battery must be removed from the modular tray. Accordingly, pursuant to the preferred embodiment of this invention, to facilitate attachment of the handle, side walls 38 are angled as is shown at 54. This allows personnel to more readily attach the handle, typically achieved by tilting the battery forward and resting it on the upstanding lip 34. Once the handle is attached, the battery can then simply be lifted out of the battery compartment.

Further, as may be appreciated, the battery positioned in compartment 40 and the battery positioned in adjacent battery compartment 30 of the back section will be quite close together, particularly when, in accordance

with the preferred embodiment of this invention, the footprint of the battery cabinet is minimized. In such an embodiment, the side panel 44 is cut back. As shown in FIG. 6A-C, a battery 56 in the battery compartment 40 adjacent battery compartment 30 can be lifted onto the lip 34 and partially rotated to attach a handle 60 to one side as shown in FIG. 6A. The battery 56 is thereafter rotated the other way to the position shown generally at 62 in FIG. 6B to attach the handle to the other side of the battery 56. The battery 56 is then in position to be lifted out of the compartment as shown in FIG. 6C.

Pursuant to one aspect of the present invention, thermal management of the batteries is assisted by allowing air movement from battery compartment to the adjoining battery compartment. In the embodiment illustrated, air movement is facilitated by use of apertures 64 in side panels 38. With suitable dimensioning and because of the taper provided in batteries of this type, air can enter through apertures 64, circulate around the side of the battery, move over the battery and then exit through the aperture on the other side of the compartment. As may be appreciated, the relative openness of the top of the battery compartment due to the compact L-shaped top restraining means employed assist in enhancing thermal management.

Each battery tray module 12 provides attachment means for connection to another module so that the requisite number of batteries for the particular application can be assembled. In the illustrative embodiment, as is shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the attachment means comprises a channel member 66 having holes 68 for bolting into an adjacent tray module. Thus, the upper battery tray module is bolted to a lower module by an attachment extension 70 that fits into channel member 66 and includes holes 72 which align with holes 68 in channel member 66. After the trays are stacked in place, bolts 74 can attach the trays together. To allow one person to be able to readily assemble the cabinet, weld nuts can be affixed to the respective holes, thus particularly simplifying bolting the attachment sections 70 that are located at the battery tray corners of the back section 20.

The illustrative embodiment of the modular battery tray attachment means is believed to be highly desirable, combining structural simplicity with ease of assembly. However, other attachment means may, of course, be utilized, if desired. Indeed, given the structure of the modular trays, other means for allowing suitable attachment of one modular tray to another may be readily understood.

As may be appreciated, when a number of battery tray modules are attached together as is shown in FIGURE 1, the height can be significant. However, as will be discussed more fully hereinafter, access to each battery is readily provided due to the C-shaped or "telephone booth" type of configuration.

Access to the battery terminals is, of course, enhanced when the terminals are located on the side of the cover (as shown in FIG. 8), rather than on the top of

the cover. Batteries with this configuration are commercially available. However, when sealed lead-acid batteries are utilized, such batteries can be used in any orientation. It is particularly preferred to utilize the batteries described in the co-pending Cole et al. application, Serial No. 07/803,498, filed December 4, 1991, assigned to the assignee of the present invention. In the embodiment shown, the batteries are turned on their side so that the terminals are in the desired position.

- 10 Pursuant to yet another aspect of the present invention, a top cover may optionally be employed. While unnecessary to the objective of providing an efficient stacking arrangement for a large number of batteries, utilizing the cover of this invention satisfies other desirable objectives. Thus, in accordance with this invention, employing a cover is necessary to provide the required structural integrity to satisfy Zone 4 applications, to limit access to the cabinet from the top and to add to the aesthetics, while allowing an area where maintenance, performance testing and like apparatus may be mounted, if desired. To this end, and as is shown in FIG. 2, a cover is provided with means for attaching the cover to the top battery tray.
- 15
- 20

As shown in FIG. 2, cover 14 thus includes corner extensions 76 with holes 78. Attaching the cover to the top battery tray is accomplished in the same fashion as adjacent battery trays are attached. Corner extensions 76 thus fit into channels 66 of the battery tray, holes 78 align with holes 68, and the top is then bolted to the top battery tray.

Yet another optional, but preferred, feature of this invention comprises a base which not only enhances the aesthetics, but also allows greater mobility. Further, structural integrity can be enhanced by providing a facile method for attaching the cabinet to the floor, as well as simplifying attachment of an optional front door.

Thus, in the illustrative embodiment shown in FIG. 4, base 18 includes channel openings 80 with holes 82. Extension members 70 of the bottom battery tray 12 fit into channel openings 80, with holes 72 of extension members 70 aligning with holes 82. The thus-mounted stack of battery trays can then be bolted or otherwise attached to base 18. If desired, means can be provided to allow the base 18 to be bolted or otherwise attached to a floor. The base 18 may thus be provided with holes 83 for bolts for attaching to the floor.

Other optional features of the base include base aperture 84. Base aperture 84, when used, should be sized for power cables for connecting to another cabinet or to a power source, or for other connections.

Another optional feature includes provisions for allowing the cabinet to be moved more readily. Spaced openings 86 may thus be included so that the entire cabinet assembly can be picked up by a forklift truck or the like. Alternatively, if desired, base 18 could be provided with casters or the like so as to allow the cabinet to be rolled from one location to another.

Of course, the bottom modular tray need not have

attachment means extending below the modular tray or such attachment means can be wholly eliminated. In such a case, the modular tray stack would rest on the bottom tray, or on a base separate from the modular tray stack.

So as to provide an aesthetically desirable appearance, and to restrict unauthorized access and inadvertent damage to the batteries, a front door can be provided for the battery cabinet assembly. When utilized, any type of a cover that closes off the open access into the interior of the cabinet may be utilized.

In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, front door 16 has a pair of tabs 88 that fit into cover apertures 90 in base 18 (FIG. 4). In the preferred embodiment (FIG. 5), key latches 92 located adjacent the top of front door 16 are used to attach the front door to the stacked modules and to restrict unauthorized access. Many types of key latches are known, and any of these may be utilized.

When the key is placed in the key latches and turned, the front door may then be lifted off, providing access to the interior. This configuration avoids the nuisance of an open hinged cover door inadvertently swinging closed. However, a hinged front door could be utilized if desired.

To provide a suitable connection for the terminals to the electrical connection outside of the cabinet itself, any type of a terminal plate or external connection may be utilized. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 7, a terminal plate mounting bracket 94 and terminal plate 96 are used. The desired power cables or the like can then be attached to terminal plate 96, as is known.

The particular electrical connections that are made between the batteries will, of course, be dependent upon the power requirements for the particular application. The battery cabinet assembly of this invention allows electrical connections to be readily made, whether series parallel, or both series and parallel configurations are desired.

One configuration for the electrical connections is schematically shown in FIG. 8. For ease of illustration, back section 20 is also labelled "BACK", while opposing side sections 22 are designated "LEFT SIDE" and "RIGHT SIDE", referring respectively to side section 22 on the left and side section 22 on the right side when one is facing back section 20. Connectors 98 show the terminal-to-terminal connections, while section connectors 100 electrically connect the batteries in one section to those in the adjacent section. Power cables 102 depict the output connections for the positive and negative terminals from the overall battery configuration.

As has been seen, the electrical connections made from battery-to-battery in the FIG. 8 configuration are between batteries in adjacent modules. With this arrangement, the wiring necessary cannot be carried out until the configuration needed for a particular application is known.

However, in accordance with an optional aspect of

this invention, a configuration can be employed wherein the batteries within a particular module can be electrically connected together. In this fashion, all that need be done when the requirements of a particular application become known is to stack the necessary number and types of modules and make the module-to-module connections.

To this end, FIG. 9 shows one configuration in which the batteries in a module can be pre-connected. As shown, the various sections are the same designations as employed in FIG. 8. In each battery tray module 12, the batteries 56 are connected to each other with connectors 104. Module-to-module connection is made via connectors 106. Depending upon the requirements, other configurations may be necessary. There are two other configurations that can be used, yet still allowing an individual battery tray module to be pre-connected.

As can be seen in FIG. 9, the pre-connected module arrangement shown involves positioning some of the batteries in an inverted position. Sealed lead-acid batteries may, of course, be used in any position. However, satisfying suitable electrical codes may require resting the inverted battery on an insulating layer. Many types of insulating layers are known and may be used.

The size and performance characteristics of batteries used for standby power applications, particularly for the moderate rate applications, can vary considerably. The embodiment shown in FIGS. 1-9 will be generally preferred for batteries of the larger sizes.

However, as may be appreciated, the number of batteries in each module can be varied as desired. Sizing a battery tray to hold five batteries is accordingly somewhat arbitrary, but does allow 40 batteries to be located in one cabinet assembly while providing stability and structural integrity for Zone 4 applications. A cabinet of this size will satisfy the power requirements for many applications.

When batteries of a smaller size are to be used, an alternative battery tray configuration may be used. As is thus shown in FIG. 10, the battery tray module illustrated has the same general configuration as the embodiment of FIGS. 1-9. For simplicity of discussion, the same numerals are used for the same components. Thus, the battery tray 12 includes a series of back section battery compartments 30 and side section battery compartments 40. The respective battery compartments are configured as in the FIGS. 1-9 embodiment, and the tray-to-tray attached is likewise identical.

However, because the embodiment of FIG. 10 is designed to accommodate smaller-sized batteries, five batteries can be accommodated in a tray without providing all three sections with battery compartments. Thus, back section 20 in this embodiment accommodates two batteries while side section 22 accommodates three batteries. Opposing side section 108, however, has no battery compartments, simply including the necessary attachment means for stacking and attaching another tray.

In accordance with yet another aspect of the present invention, spacers can be provided so that a single battery compartment can be readily altered to securely hold smaller-size batteries. Thus, as is shown in FIG. 10, apertures 110 and depth spacer bar 112 decreases the depth of the battery compartment. Further, and as is shown in FIG. 11, side spacer 114 decreases the width of the battery compartment. To hold side spacer 114 in place, side spacer 114 may be provided with an opening 116 through which rod 46 can be positioned.

It is thus within the scope of this invention to provide suitable spacers that enhance the versatility of the battery tray modules by allowing facile means to adapt a single-sized module for use with batteries of varying sizes. Other suitable spacers that accomplish this purpose can, of course, be used.

The C-shaped configuration of the battery cabinet assembly of the present invention allows, as may be appreciated, ready access to each of the batteries positioned in the assembly. After the front door (when used) is removed, personnel can enter the open area bounded on three sides by the stacked modular battery trays. The open area is more than adequate to provide the space necessary for testing, maintenance, and removal of any battery.

While providing a desirable configuration, it should be appreciated that the open area within the battery stack assembly of this invention affords, if desired, space for including even further batteries so as to further maximize use of the floor space. As one example, a battery tray module stack similar to the illustrative embodiments but dimensioned to fit within the open area could be employed, if desired. Other configurations could be used as well. Of course, occupying that open area restricts the otherwise facile access.

The battery cabinet assembly of the present invention is inexpensive to manufacture and assemble. Any suitable materials can be used for the various components. Materials found suitable are structural steel, sheet steel, sheet metal and the like. However, any other material may be used that satisfy the strength and other requirements as discussed herein. Thus, aluminum, fiberglass and plastics might also be suitable for some applications.

Thus, as has been seen, the modular battery cabinet system of the present invention provides the ability to retain batteries in a highly efficient, yet inexpensive fashion, while still providing ready access to the batteries. The footprint required may be minimized, and the flexibility that may be obtained for the many diverse applications is substantial.

Claims

1. A modular battery tray assembly (10) comprising a plurality of battery trays (12) stacked one upon the other and attached together, each battery tray (12)

5 comprising a back section (20) and opposing side sections (22) disposed to provide access through an open side opposite said back section, at least two of said sections including at least one battery compartment (40), restraining means (34, 36, 38) attached to said battery tray for retaining a battery (56) within said battery compartment and attachment means (70) associated with each of said battery trays for attaching a battery tray to another of said battery trays.

10 2. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 1, wherein said restraining means retains the battery from movement in at least two directions within the battery compartment (40).

15 3. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 2, wherein said restraining means retains the battery within said battery compartment (40) against movement side-to-side, front-to-back and up and down within the battery compartment.

20 4. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 1, wherein said battery compartment comprises a back wall, a base having an upstanding lip (34) dimensioned to snugly hold a battery from front-to-back movement between lip and said backwall and side panels (38, 42, 44) dimensioned to prevent a battery within said battery compartment (40) from side-to-side movement.

25 5. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 4, wherein said side panels (38, 42, 44) are angled so as to facilitate attachment of a handle to a battery retained in said battery compartment (40).

30 6. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 4, wherein said side panels have apertures (64) for air movement.

35 7. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 4, wherein said side panels contain an aperture (48) for accepting a restraining means (46) for preventing movement of a battery positioned in said battery compartment from up and down movement.

40 8. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 7, wherein said aperture (48) is L-shaped.

45 9. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 8, wherein said restraining means is an L-shaped rod (46) capable of being inserted through said L-shaped apertures (48) and wherein said L-shaped apertures (48) are positioned such that said L-shaped rod (46) is positioned on the top of a battery located in a battery compartment (40).

50 10. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 1,

wherein said attachment means (70) comprises a structural extension member located adjacent each of the four corners of the tray battery and extending below said battery tray, an opening in the top of each corner of the battery tray for accepting said structural extension member of a complementary battery tray, and apertures for accepting means for attaching said battery tray to another battery tray.

11. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 1, which includes a top cover (14). 10

12. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 1, which includes a front door (16) restricting access to the open side opposite said back section. 15

13. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 12, wherein said front door (16) includes means (92) for locking said front door to said battery tray assembly. 20

14. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 1, which includes a base (18) attached to the bottom battery tray of said battery tray assembly. 25

15. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 14, wherein said base includes access means (86) for allowing a lifting mechanism to lift said modular battery tray assembly. 30

16. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 15, wherein said base has means (85) allowing attachment of said base to a floor. 35

17. The modular battery tray assembly of claim 1, wherein each of said sections includes at least one battery compartment (40). 40

18. A battery cabinet assembly (10) comprising a plurality of battery tray modules (12) stacked one upon another and attached together, each module (12) comprising a back section (20) and opposing side sections (22) disposed to provide access through an open side opposite said back section, at least two of said sections including at least one battery compartment (40), restraining means associated with said module for retaining a battery (56) within said battery compartment, a battery (56) positioned in each of said battery compartments, said (56) being electrically connected together, and attachment means associated with each of said modules for attaching said module to another module. 45

19. The battery cabinet assembly of claim 18, which includes a top cover (14) attached to the top module, a front door (16) closing off the open side opposite said back section and a base (18) attached to the bottom module. 50

20. The battery cabinet assembly of claim 19, wherein said front door (16) includes means for locking said front door to said modules. 55

5 21. The battery cabinet assembly of claim 20, wherein said base (18) includes means for attaching said base to a floor.

22. The battery cabinet assembly of claim 21, wherein said base (18) includes access means (86) for allowing a lifting mechanism to lift said battery cabinet assembly.

23. The battery cabinet assembly of claim 22, wherein each of said sections includes at least one battery compartment (40).

24. A pre-wired battery tray module (12) comprising a back section (20) and opposing side sections (22) disposed to provide access through an open side opposite said back section, at least two of said sections including at least one battery compartment (40), a battery (56) positioned in each of said battery compartments (40), connections (104) electrically connecting said batteries and attachment means associated with said module for attaching said module to another module.

Patentansprüche

- Modulare Batteriefacheinheit (10), die eine Vielzahl von Batteriefächern (12) umfaßt, die übereinander gestapelt und miteinander verbunden sind, wobei jedes Batteriefach (12) einen hinteren Abschnitt (20) und einander gegenüberliegende seitliche Abschnitte (22) umfaßt, die so angeordnet sind, daß über eine dem hinteren Abschnitt gegenüberliegende offene Seite Zugang möglich ist, wobei wenigstens zwei der Abschnitte wenigstens eine Batteriekammer (40) enthalten, eine Halteeinrichtung (34, 36, 38), die an dem Batteriefach angebracht ist und eine Batterie (56) in der Batteriekammer hält, sowie Anbringungseinrichtungen (70), die zu jedem der Batteriefächer gehören und der Anbringung eines Batteriefachs an einem anderen der Batteriefächer dienen.
- Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Halteeinrichtung die Batterie an Bewegung in wenigstens zwei Richtungen in der Batteriekammer (40) hindert.
- Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 2, wobei die Halteeinrichtung die Batterie in der Batteriekammer (40) an Bewegung von einer Seite zur anderen, von vorn nach hinten und nach oben und unten in der Batteriekammer hindert.

4. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Batteriekammer eine Rückwand, einen Boden mit einem sich nach oben erstreckenden Rand (34), der so bemessen ist, daß er eine Batterie eng anliegend an Bewegung von vorn nach hinten zwischen dem Rand und der Rückwand hindert, und Seitenwände (38, 42, 44) umfaßt, die so bemessen sind, daß sie Bewegung einer Batterie in der Batteriekammer (40) von einer Seite zur anderen verhindern.

5. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 4, wobei die Seitenwände (32, 44, 48) abgeschrägt sind, so daß Anbringung eines Griffes an einer in der Batteriekammer (40) enthaltenen Batterie erleichtert wird.

6. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 4, wobei die Seitenwände Öffnungen (64) zur Luftbewegung aufweisen.

7. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 4, wobei die Seitenwände eine Öffnung (48) zur Aufnahme einer Halteeinrichtung (46) enthalten, die verhindert, daß sich eine in der Batteriekammer befindliche Batterie nach oben und nach unten bewegt.

8. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 7, wobei die Öffnung (48) L-förmig ist.

9. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 8, wobei die Halteeinrichtung eine L-förmige Stange (46) ist, die über L-förmige Öffnungen (48) eingeführt werden kann, und wobei die L-förmigen Öffnungen (48) so angeordnet sind, daß die L-förmige Stange (46) an der Oberseite einer in einer Batteriekammer (40) befindlichen Batterie angeordnet ist.

10. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Anbringungseinrichtung (70) ein konstruktives Verlängerungselement umfaßt, das sich an jede der vier Ecken des Batteriefachs angrenzend befindet und sich unterhalb des Batteriefachs erstreckt, eine Öffnung in der Oberseite jeder Ecke des Batteriefachs zur Aufnahme des strukturellen Verlängerungselementes eines komplementären Batteriefachs, sowie Öffnungen zur Aufnahme der Einrichtungen zur Anbringung des Batteriefachs an einem anderen Batteriefach.

11. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 1, die eine obere Abdeckung (14) enthält.

12. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 1, die eine vordere Tür (15) enthält, die Zugang zu dem hinteren Abschnitt gegenüberliegenden offenen Seite einschränkt.

13. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 12, wobei die vordere Tür (16) Einrichtungen (92) zum Arretieren der vorderen Tür an der Batteriefacheinheit enthält.

14. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 1, die einen Untersatz (18) enthält, der an dem untersten Batteriefach der Batteriefacheinheit angebracht ist.

15. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 14, wobei der Untersatz Zugangseinrichtungen (86) enthält, die es einem Hebemechanismus ermöglichen, die modulare Batteriefacheinheit anzuheben.

16. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 15, wobei der Untersatz Einrichtungen (85) enthält, die die Anbringung des Untersatzes an einem Boden ermöglichen.

17. Modulare Batteriefacheinheit nach Anspruch 1, wobei jeder der Abschnitte wenigstens eine Batteriekammer (40) enthält.

18. Batteriegehäuseeinheit (10), die eine Vielzahl von Batteriefachmodulen (12) umfaßt, die übereinandergestapelt und miteinander verbunden sind, wobei jeder Modul (12) einen hinteren Abschnitt (20) und einander gegenüberliegende seitliche Abschnitte (22) umfaßt, die so angeordnet sind, daß über eine dem hinteren Abschnitt gegenüberliegende offene Seite Zugang möglich ist, wobei wenigstens zwei der Abschnitte wenigstens eine Batteriekammer (40) enthalten, eine Halteeinrichtung, die zu dem Modul gehört und eine Batterie (56) in der Batteriekammer hält, eine Batterie (56), die sich in jeder der Batteriekammern befindet, wobei die Batterien (56) elektrisch miteinander verbunden sind, sowie Anbringungseinrichtungen, die zu jedem der Module gehören und der Anbringung des Moduls an einem anderen Modul dienen.

19. Batteriegehäuseeinheit nach Anspruch 18, die eine obere Abdeckung (14) enthält, die an dem obersten Modul angebracht ist, eine vordere Tür (16), die die dem hinteren Abschnitt gegenüberliegende offene Seite verschließt, sowie einen Untersatz (18), der an dem untersten Modul angebracht ist.

20. Batteriegehäuseeinheit nach Anspruch 19, wobei die vordere Tür (16) Einrichtungen zum Arretieren der vorderen Tür an den Modulen enthält.

21. Batteriegehäuseeinheit nach Anspruch 20, wobei der Untersatz (18) Einrichtungen zum Anbringen des Untersatzes an einem Boden enthält.

22. Batteriegehäuseeinheit nach Anspruch 21, wobei der Untersatz (18) Zugangseinrichtungen (86) ent-

hält, die es einem Hebemechanismus ermöglichen, die Batteriegehäuseeinheit anzuheben.

23. Batteriegehäuseeinheit nach Anspruch 22, wobei jeder der Abschnitte wenigstens eine Batteriekammer (40) enthält. 5

24. Vorverdrahteter Batteriefachmodul (12), der einen hinteren Abschnitt (20) und einander gegenüberliegende seitliche Abschnitte (22) umfaßt, die so angeordnet sind, daß über eine dem hinteren Abschnitt gegenüberliegende offene Seite Zugang möglich ist, wobei wenigstens zwei der Abschnitte wenigstens eine Batteriekammer (40) enthalten, eine Batterie (56), die sich in jeder der Batteriekammern (40) befindet, Verbindungen (104), die die Batterien elektrisch verbinden, sowie Anbringungseinrichtungen, die zu dem Modul gehören und der Anbringung des Moduls an einem anderen Modul dienen. 10

Revendications

- Assemblage modulaire (10) de bacs pour batteries comprenant une pluralité de bacs (12) pour batteries empilés les uns au-dessus des autres et attachés ensemble, chaque bac (12) pour batteries comprenant une section arrière (20) et des sections latérales opposées (22) disposées de manière à permettre l'accès par un côté ouvert en face de ladite section arrière, au moins deux desdites sections comportant au moins un compartiment (40) pour batterie, un moyen de retenue (34, 36, 38) attaché audit bac pour batteries pour retenir une batterie (56) dans ledit compartiment pour batterie et un moyen d'attache (70) associé à chacun desdits bacs pour batteries pour attacher un bac pour batteries à un autre desdits bacs pour batteries. 15
- Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit moyen de retenue empêche la batterie de se déplacer dans au moins deux directions dans le compartiment (40) pour batterie. 20
- Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 2, dans lequel ledit moyen de retenue empêche la batterie dans ledit compartiment (40) pour batterie de se déplacer d'un côté à l'autre, d'avant en arrière et de bas en haut dans le compartiment pour batterie. 25
- Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit compartiment pour batterie comprend une paroi arrière, une base ayant une lèvre relevée (34) dimensionnée pour retenir intimement une batterie contre tout mouvement d'avant en arrière entre la lèvre et ladite paroi arrière et des panneaux latéraux (38, 42, 44) dimensionnés pour empêcher une batterie dans ledit compartiment (40) pour batterie de se déplacer d'un côté à l'autre. 30
- Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 4, dans lequel lesdits panneaux latéraux (38, 42, 44) sont biseautés de manière à faciliter l'attache d'une poignée à une batterie retenue dans ledit compartiment (40) pour batterie. 35
- Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 4, dans lequel lesdits panneaux latéraux ont des ouvertures (64) pour permettre une circulation d'air. 40
- Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 4, dans lequel lesdits panneaux latéraux contiennent une ouverture (48) pour accepter un moyen de retenue (46) destiné à empêcher le mouvement de bas en haut d'une batterie positionnée dans ledit compartiment pour batterie. 45
- Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 7, dans lequel ladite ouverture (48) est en forme de L. 50
- Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 8, dans lequel ledit moyen de retenue est une barre en forme de L (46) capable d'être insérée à travers lesdites ouvertures (48) en forme de L et dans lequel lesdites ouvertures (48) en forme de L sont positionnées de telle manière que ladite barre en forme de L (46) soit positionnée sur le dessus d'une batterie située dans un compartiment (40) pour batterie. 55
- Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit moyen d'attache (70) comprend un organe d'extension structurel situé à côté de chacun des quatre coins du bac pour batteries et s'étendant sous ledit bac pour batteries, une ouverture dans le dessus de chaque coin du bac pour batteries pour accepter ledit organe d'extension structurel d'un bac pour batteries complémentaire, et des ouvertures pour accepter un moyen d'attache dudit bac pour batteries à un autre bac pour batteries. 60
- Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 1, qui comporte un couvercle supérieur (14). 65
- Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 1, qui comporte une porte avant (16) limitant l'accès au côté ouvert en face de ladite section arrière. 70

13. Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 12, dans lequel ladite porte avant (16) comporte un moyen (92) pour verrouiller ladite porte avant audit assemblage de bacs pour batteries.

14. Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 1, qui comporte une base (18) attachée au bac pour batteries inférieur dudit assemblage de bacs pour batteries.

15. Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 14, dans lequel ladite base comporte un moyen d'accès (86) pour permettre à un mécanisme de levage de lever ledit assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries.

16. Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 15, dans lequel ladite base a un moyen (83) permettant d'attacher ladite base à un sol.

17. Assemblage modulaire de bacs pour batteries selon la revendication 1, dans lequel chacune desdites sections comporte au moins un compartiment (40) pour batterie.

18. Assemblage (10) d'enceinte pour batteries comprenant une pluralité de modules (12) de bacs pour batteries empilés les uns sur les autres et attachés ensemble, chaque module (12) comprenant une section arrière (20) et des sections latérales opposées (22) disposées de manière à permettre l'accès par un côté ouvert en face de ladite section arrière, au moins deux desdites sections comportant au moins un compartiment (40) pour batterie, un moyen de retenue associé avec ledit module pour retenir une batterie (56) dans ledit compartiment pour batterie, une batterie (56) positionnée dans chacun desdits compartiments pour batterie, lesdites batteries (56) étant connectées électriquement les unes aux autres, et un moyen d'attache associé à chacun desdits modules pour attacher ledit module à un autre module.

19. Assemblage d'enceinte pour batteries selon la revendication 18, qui comporte un couvercle supérieur (14) attaché au module supérieur, une porte avant (16) fermant le côté ouvert en face de ladite section arrière et une base (18) attachée au module inférieur.

20. Assemblage d'enceinte pour batteries selon la revendication 19, dans lequel ladite porte avant (16) comporte un moyen pour verrouiller ladite porte avant auxdits modules.

21. Assemblage d'enceinte pour batteries selon la re-

5 vendication 20, dans lequel ladite base (18) comporte un moyen pour attacher ladite base à un sol.

22. Assemblage d'enceinte pour batteries selon la revendication 21, dans lequel ladite base (18) comporte un moyen d'accès (86) pour permettre à un mécanisme de levage de lever ledit assemblage d'enceinte pour batteries.

10 23. Assemblage d'enceinte pour batteries selon la revendication 22, dans lequel chacune desdites sections comporte au moins un compartiment (40) pour batterie.

15 24. Module (12) de bac pour batteries précâblé comprenant une section arrière (20) et des sections latérales opposées (22) disposées de manière à permettre l'accès par un côté ouvert en face de ladite section arrière, au moins deux desdites sections comportant au moins un compartiment (40) pour batterie, une batterie (56) positionnée dans chacun desdits compartiments (40) pour batterie, des connexions (104) connectant électriquement lesdites batteries et un moyen d'attache associé audit module pour attacher ledit module à un autre module.

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

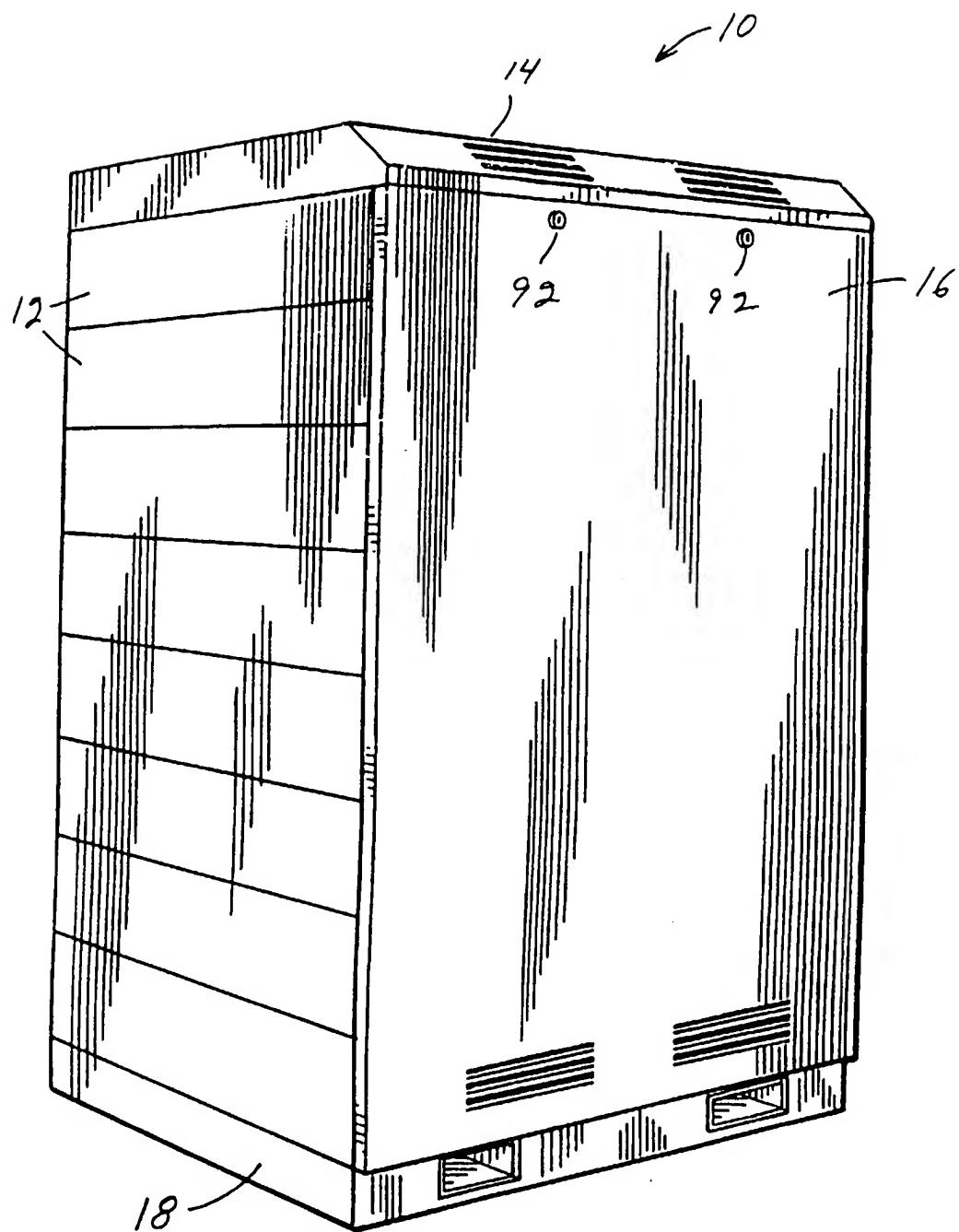


FIG. 1

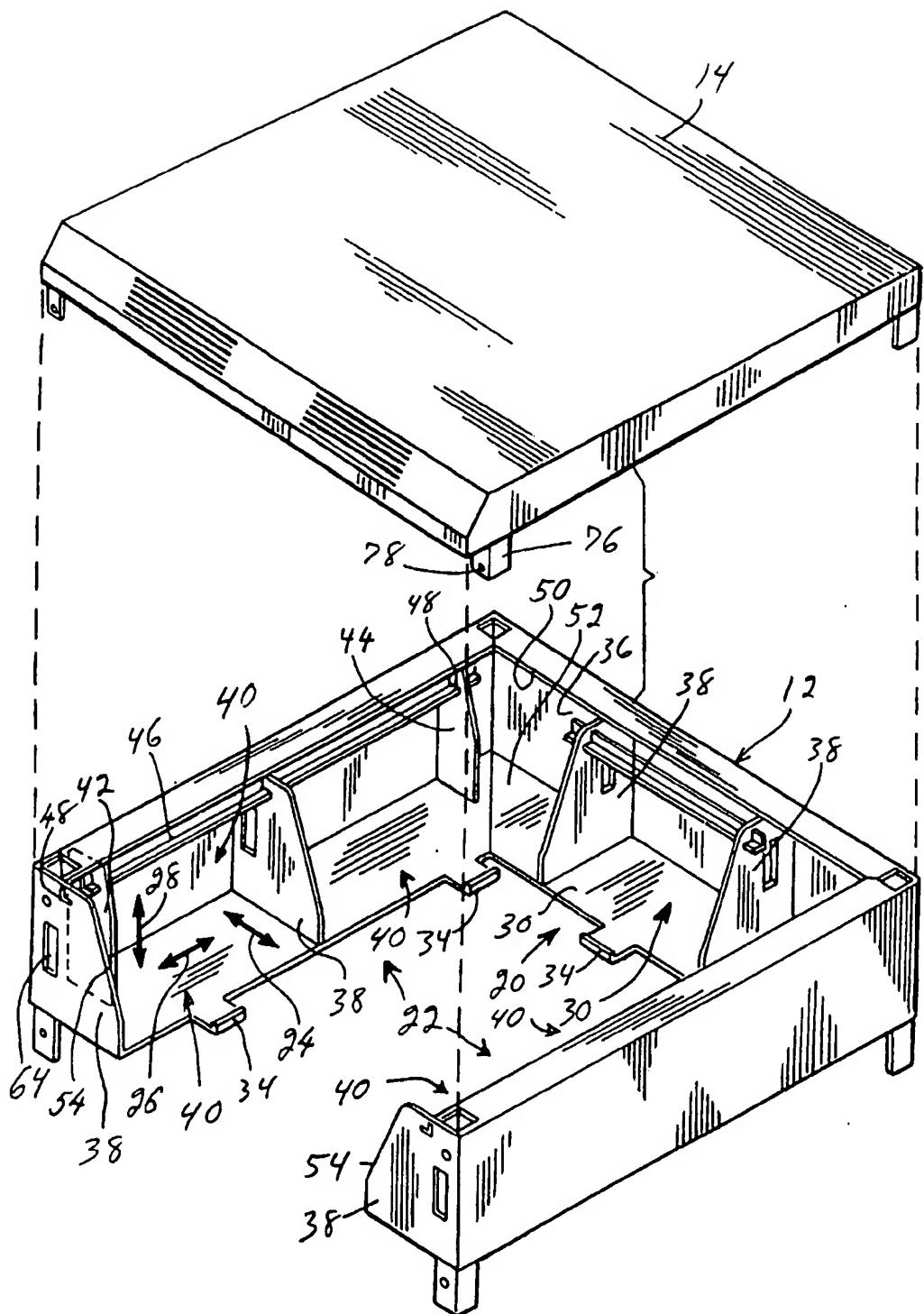
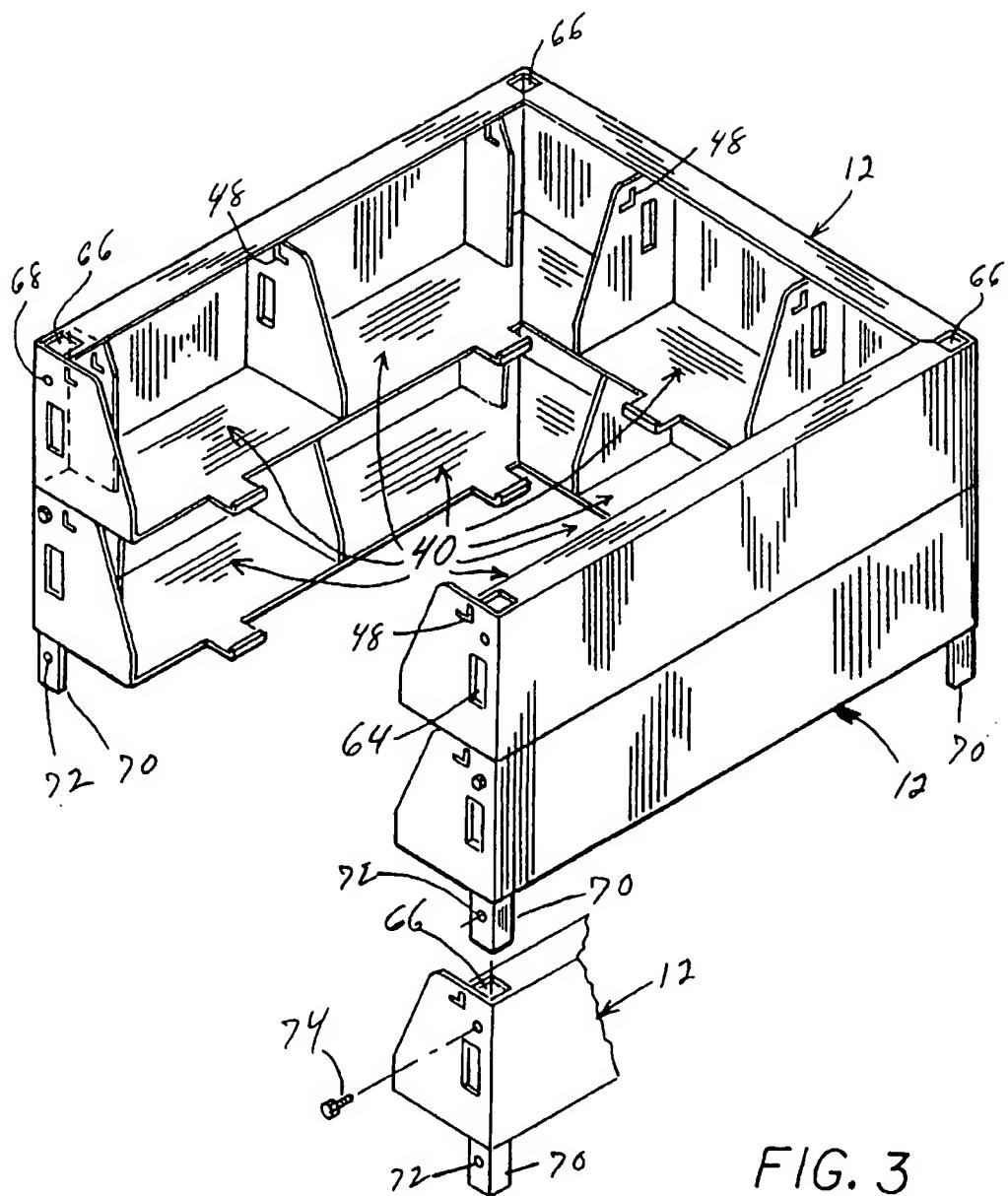


FIG. 2



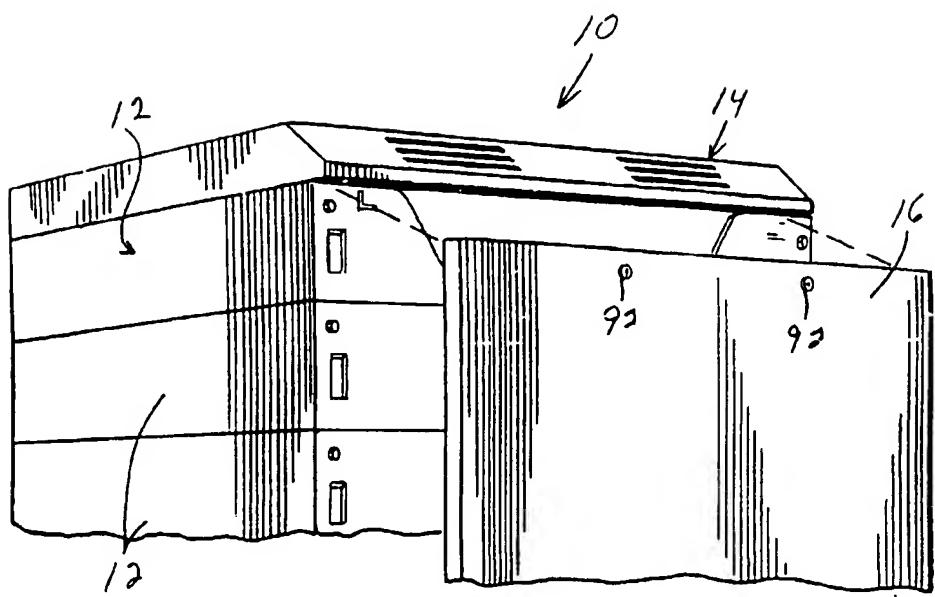


FIG. 5

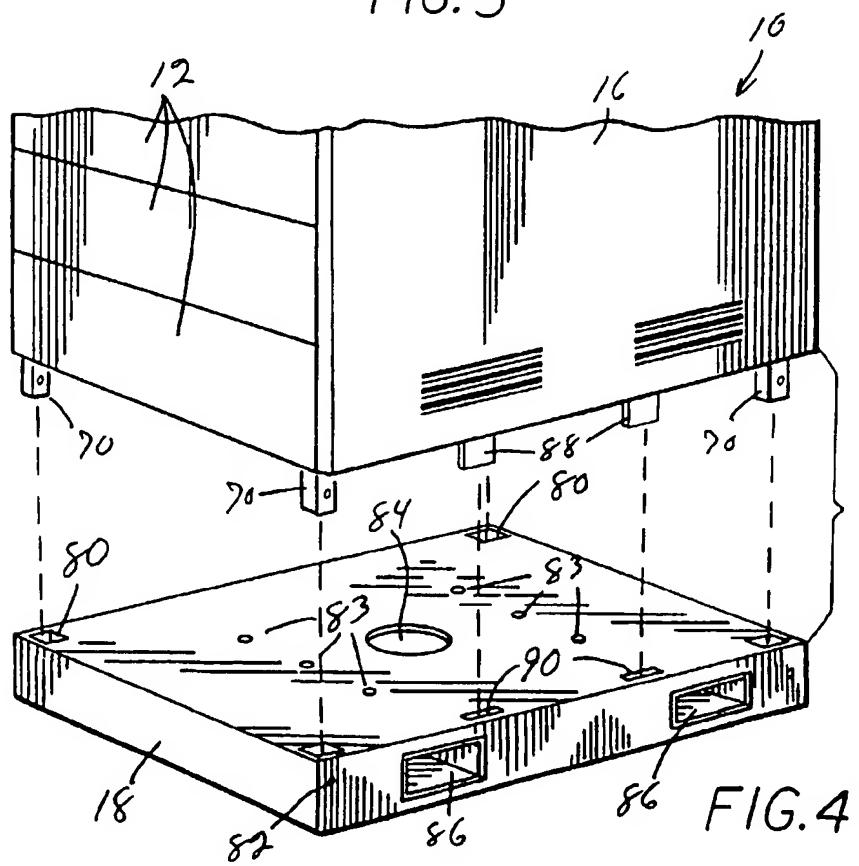


FIG. 4

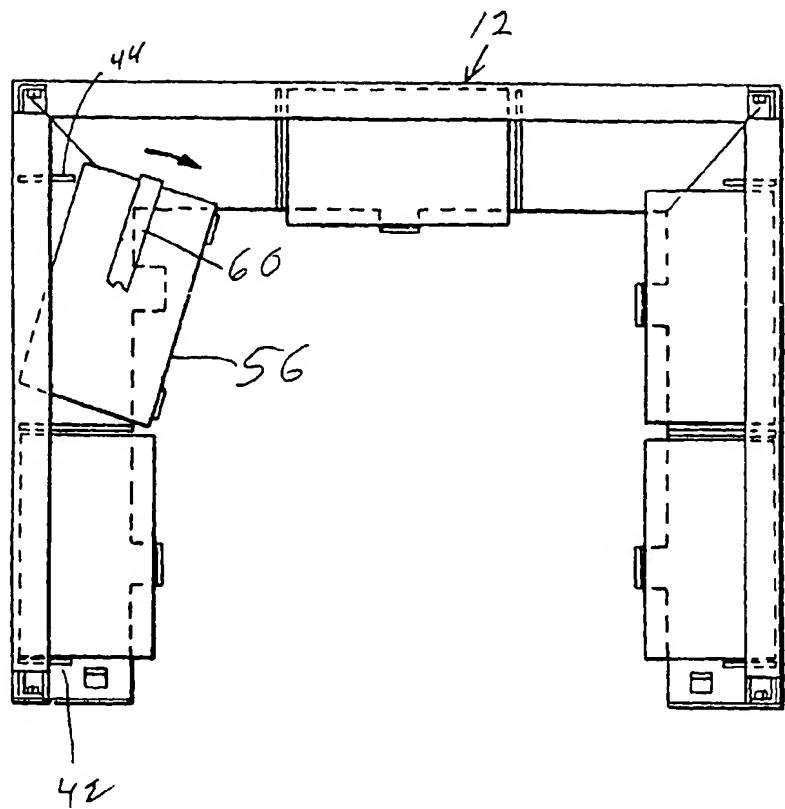


FIG. 6A

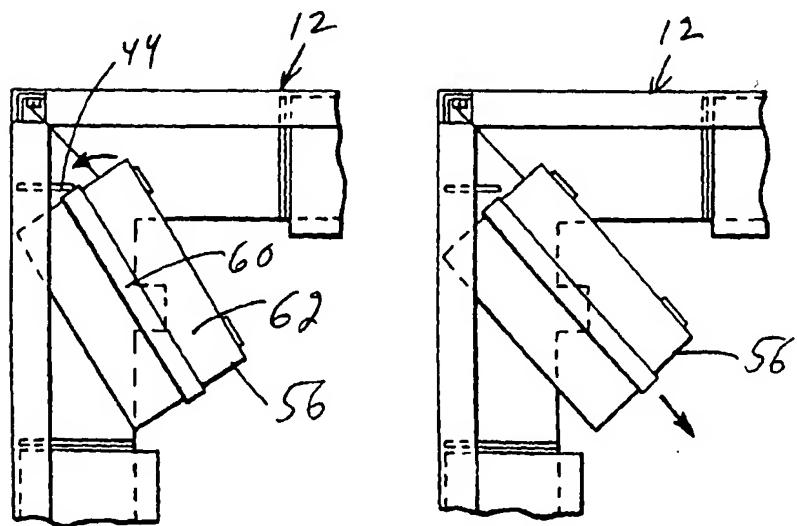
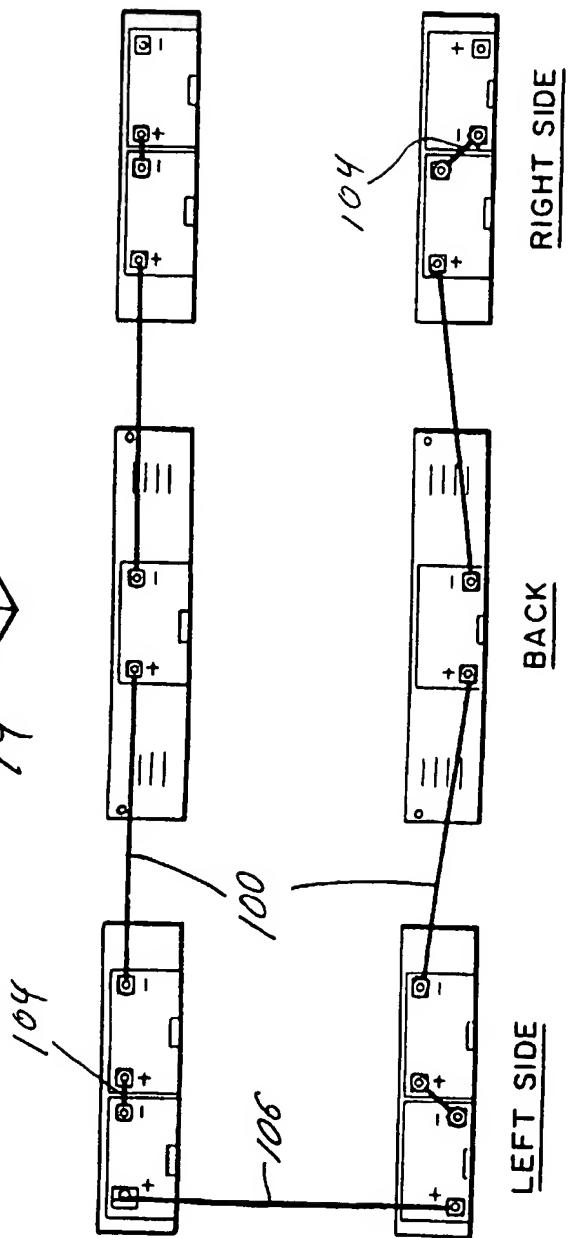
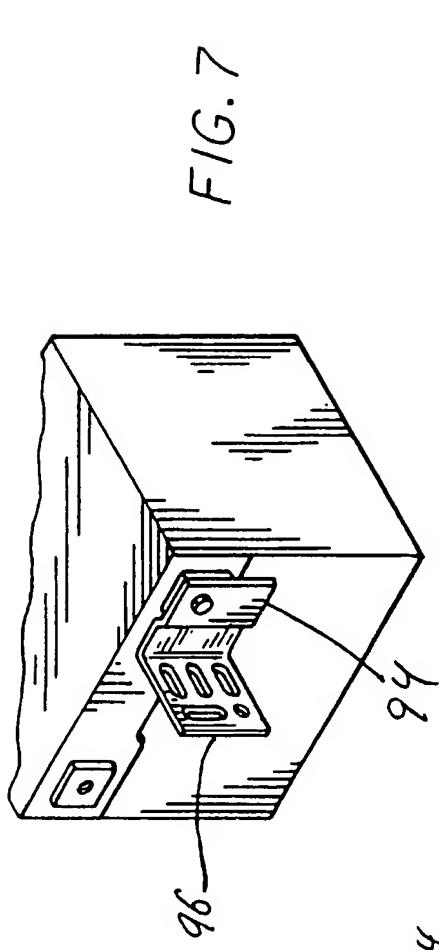


FIG. 6B

FIG. 6C



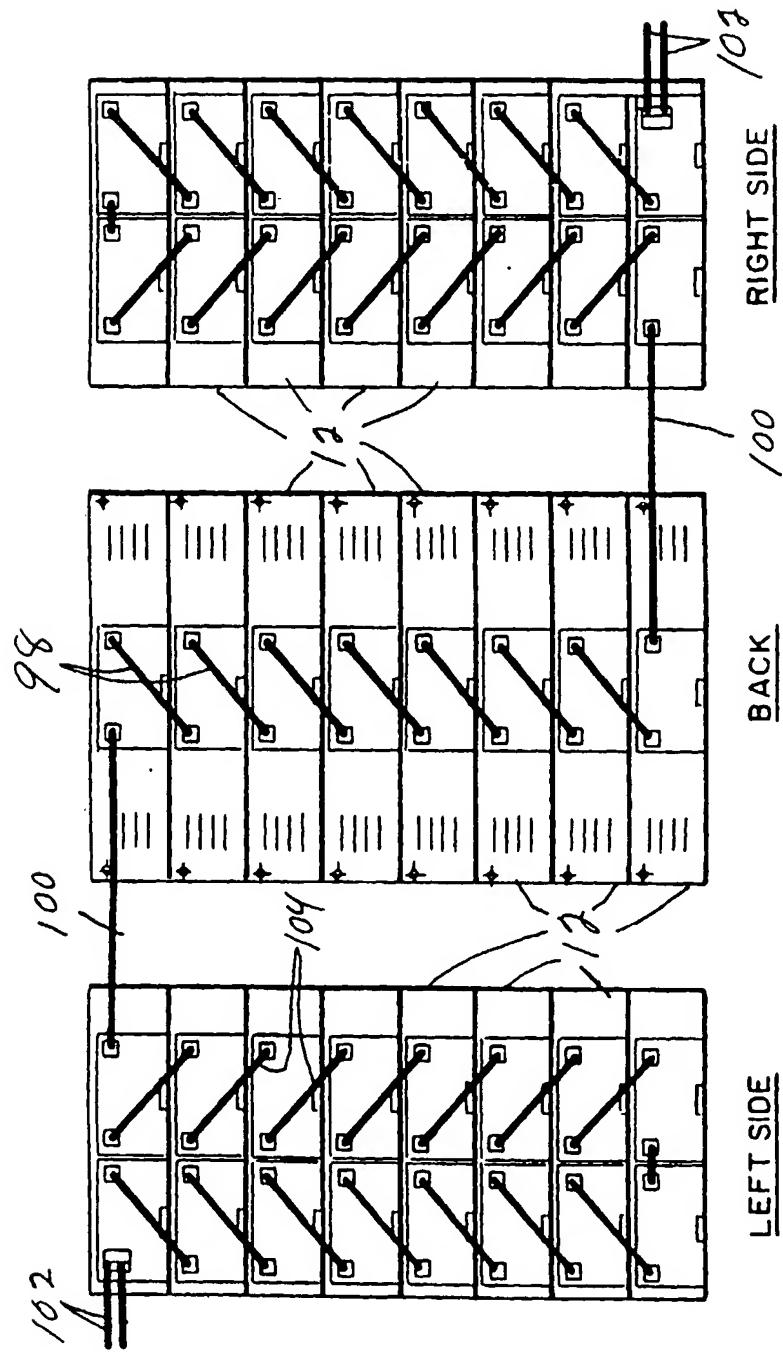


FIG. 8

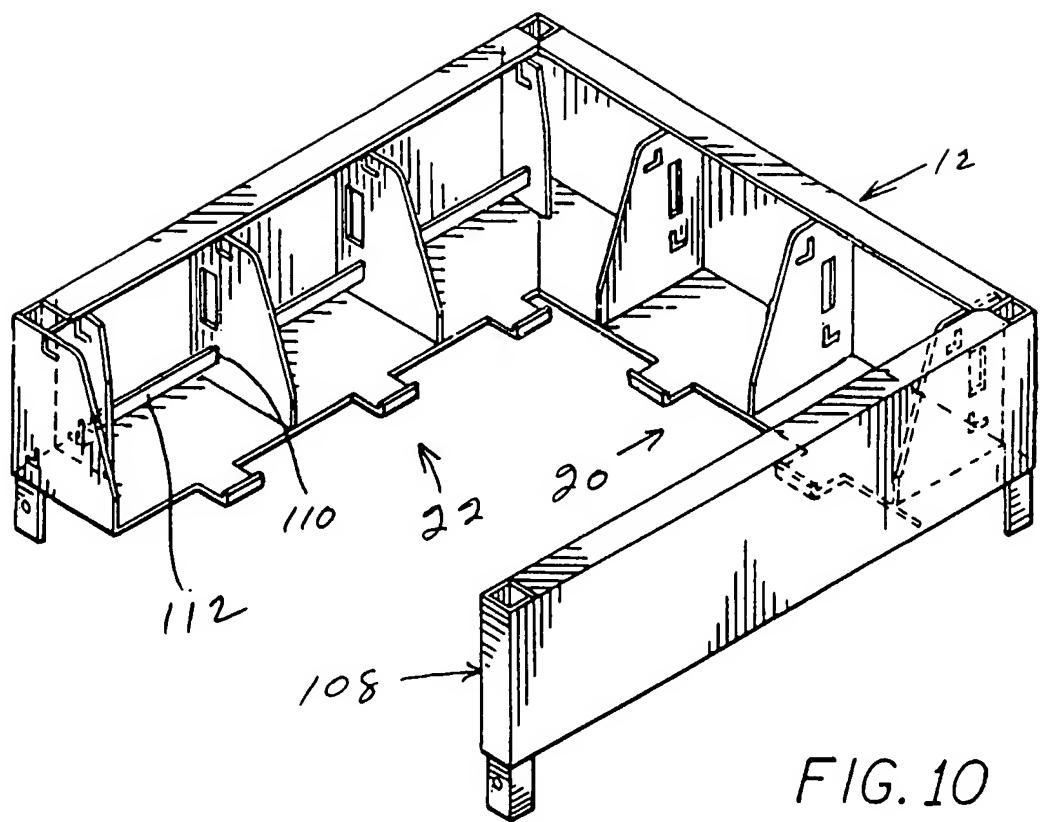


FIG. 10

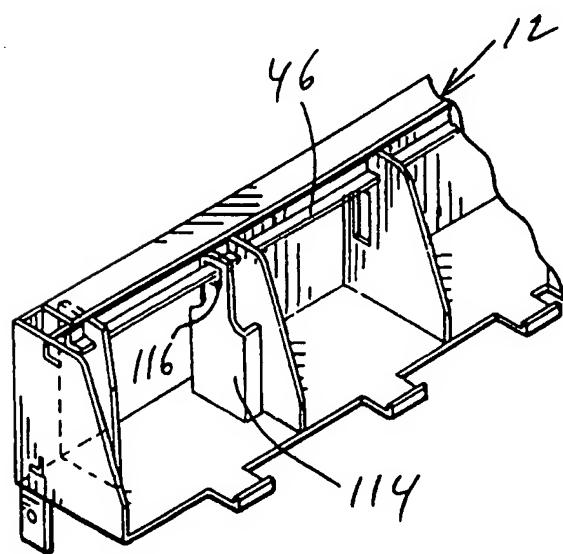


FIG. 11